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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EAP/RSP/TC, EAP/PA, EAP/PD -  
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SECRETARY POWELL'S BEIJING  
TRIP AND U.S. POLICY

A) "The Supporter [Who Was] Behind [Us] Unexpectedly Is  
the First to Hit [Us]"

Journalist Liu Pao-chieh said in the conservative, pro-  
unification "United Daily News:" (10/29):

"U.S. Secretary Powell said Thursday a 'peaceful  
resolution' is [the basis of] Washington's cross-Straits  
policy, but so far he has not yet changed his denial of  
Taiwan's sovereign status, and this is what deserves  
more attention. This development should prompt the DPP  
government to reconsider its cross-Straits policy that  
emphasizes relying wholly on the United States [to  
counter China]. .

"When considering Taiwan's relations with the United  
States and Japan, the DPP always assumes that the two  
countries would not want to see Taiwan fall into the  
hands of China. The reason that Washington wants both  
sides of the Taiwan Straits to resume a dialogue,  
according to the DPP, lies in the hope of stabilizing  
cross-Straits relations, and the DPP believes that  
Washington will not be happy to see both sides move  
toward unification. In the DPP's eyes, what the United  
States has been doing is just the manipulation of a two-  
handed strategy. .

"Thus, even while a superpower like the United States  
is seeking rapprochement with China, Taiwan continues  
to go the opposite way. Many political figures [in  
Taiwan] have expressed strong hostility toward China  
and thought they had U.S. support behind them. They  
have failed to realize that, in fact, the United States  
has changed its position [over the past four years].

"[Senior Presidential Advisor] K.M. Koo placed  
advertisements in U.S. newspapers but got slashed by  
the United States. Those pro-independence people  
originally planned to rely on the United States as a  
strong backing for fighting against China, but they did  
not expect that the first one to hit [against Taiwan]  
is the United States. This is political reality."

B) "[Should Taiwan] Apply to Become One of the States  
of the United States?"

The "News Watch" column of the pro-independence "Taiwan  
Daily" said (10/29):

"When [Secretary] Powell said Taiwan is not an  
independent sovereign state, some politicians in Taiwan  
got very angry and they protested. Of course, some  
other politicians were as happy inside their hearts as  
if they had seen the 'end of Taiwan independence.' But  
are things really that bad?

"Have the Americans ever looked at Taiwan as an  
independent sovereign state? If we reflect on the  
annual talks between Taiwan and the United States over  
intellectual property rights, we see that Taiwan was  
forced to give up its administrative, legislative, even  
judicial rights. When did the Americans ever treat  
Taiwan as an independent sovereign state? .

". In some Americans' eyes, Taiwan is of course not an  
'independent sovereign' state, otherwise how could the  
Taiwan Relations Act be a domestic law of the United  
States? See, the U.S. military needs to protect  
Taiwan! Some people in Taiwan launched a movement  
intending to apply to become one of the states of the  
United States. It seemed more like an act of kissing  
the ass of the Americans. But just look at the United  
States' influence on Taiwan: even if Taiwan is not a  
state of the United States, it should at least be a  
special administrative region of the United States,  
like the status of Puerto Rico. ."

C) "Powell's Storm and Taiwan's Situation"

The Sun Ching-yu column said in the pro-independence

"Taiwan Daily" (10/29):

"Secretary Powell remarks could be viewed as a warning signal for the Chen Shui-bian administration. Despite the fact that Chen managed to stick to his bottom line in his May 20 inaugural speech and National Day speech, his administration still had to pay the price for Chen's challenge of Washington's 'one China' policy. The pro-independence camp believes that Taiwan should push all the more for the rectification of Taiwan's name because the international community does not recognize the Republic of China (ROC). But they have never really paid attention to the fact that Powell was not denying the sovereignty of the ROC but the 'independence' and 'sovereignty' of Taiwan. Before last year, the Bush administration had many times addressed Taiwan as the 'Republic of China.'

"Whether this new change in the United States' Taiwan policy will turn from 'words' into 'action' is the touchstone to see if Taiwan will really split from the United States. ."

D) "Don't Read Too Much into Powell Statements"

Liu Kuan-teh, a political commentator based in Taipei, said in an op-ed of the pro-independence, English-language "Taipei Times" (10/29):

". It is true that there have been ups and downs in relations between Washington and Taipei in the past 10 months. As Taiwan's leaders keep emphasizing Taiwan's independence sovereignty, Beijing has doubled its pressure on Washington.

"It is natural for the Bush administration to make an extra effort to maintain a friendly atmosphere with its Chinese counterpart before the general election. Nevertheless, appeasing China should not be conducted at the expense of Taipei's pursuit of dialogue and normalization with Beijing.

"Perhaps this was an unfortunate break in the momentum to press Beijing to be flexible on the resumption of cross-Straits dialogue."

PAAL